



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

The Council

Incorporated as Dena' Nena' Henash
Vol. 49 No. 10 • October 2024



Annual Boat Trip Connects Rural Alaska to Decision Makers

Rain was expected throughout the annual partner's boat trip in August this year, but instead, participants were greeted with sunshine, gracious hospitality, and meaningful connections during their visit to the Upper Tanana Subregion.

The trip brought key Alaska and Federal decision-makers and representatives from various entities to the communities of Eagle, Tetlin, Northway, and Tanacross. The annual partner's boat trip offers an invaluable opportunity for attendees to see, experience,

and better understand the challenges impacting our tribal communities. It also serves as a platform for connecting tribal leaders with those capable of making impactful changes to community wellness.

This year's attendees included TCC leadership and representatives from the Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Federal Tribal Partner agencies. Law makers and state and federal department heads were also in attendance.

Community halls were filled as attendees participated in open dialogue on pressing issues, such as community safety concerns, transportation challenges, culture camp expansion, food security, access to healthcare, and other topics unique to each community.

Dr. Robert Lawrence, Chief Medical Officer for the State of Alaska, said, "Trips like these are essential for policy makers and governmental leaders to witness firsthand what's working

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Join Us! 2024 TCC Special Full Board of Directors Meeting

November 13th-15th, 2024 • Westmark Hotel • Fairbanks, AK
More Information to Come



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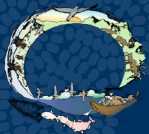


Mission

Tanana Chiefs Conference provides a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development, and culture of the Interior Alaska Native people.

Vision

Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

Executive Board

Trimble Gilbert, Arctic Village
1st Traditional Chief

Andrew Jimmie, Minto
2nd Traditional Chief

Brian Ridley, Eagle
Chief/Chairman

Sharon Hildebrand, Nulato
Vice-President

Charlie Wright, Rampart
Secretary/Treasurer

Herbie Demit, Tanacross
Upper Tanana

Claude 'Joe' Petruska, Nikolai
Upper Kuskokwim

Nancy James, Gwichyaa Zhee
Yukon Flats

Ivan Demientieff, Grayling
Lower Yukon

Lori Baker, Minto
Yukon Tanana

Charlie Green, Galena
Yukon Koyukuk

Peter Demoski, Nulato
Elder Advisor

Mackenzie Englishhoe, Gwichyaa Zhee
Youth Advisor



Letter from the Chief

Dear Tribes and Tribal Members,

I hope everyone had a successful hunting season and was able to put away enough food for the winter. This time of year is always challenging as we prepare for the colder months ahead, and I'm thinking of each of you and your families during this time.

At the end of this month, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Mid-Year Convention will be taking place in Las Vegas. I would like to remind you that TCC has agreed to cover the membership dues for Interior Tribal delegates who wish to attend the meeting. Please coordinate with our Self-Governance staff to make necessary arrangements. I also want to share that there have been discussions at the NCAI Executive Council level about allowing virtual attendance and voting. This would be a change in the NCAI bylaws and could significantly help our Tribes by reducing costs associated with attending these meetings.

I am also pleased to share that the 7th Annual Tribal Unity Gathering is set to take place in Anchorage on October 16th at the Captain Cook Hotel. This annual event brings together Tribal leaders and members from across the state to unify our voice and stay informed on matters important to our Tribal communities. I encourage all who can to participate by contacting Sonja.kokrine@tananachiefs.org

Looking ahead, I am excited to announce that our 2024 TCC Special Convention will be held from November 13-15 at the Westmark Hotel in Fairbanks. This year's convention will provide updates on several critical topics, including the Tribal Resource Stewardship Department, the ongoing salmon crisis, climate change, the Reclaiming Our People Initiative, and more. Additionally, the Full Board will discuss whether or not to direct TCC to initiate a pilot project to arm Village Public Safety Officers in three Interior villages. Keep an eye on our social media and website for more details as we get closer to the event.

Finally, I want to emphasize the importance of participating in the upcoming General Election on November 5th. The decisions made by our elected officials have a significant impact on our communities, so I encourage everyone to research the candidates and vote for those who align with your values. You can find more information on this important topic on page 10 of this newsletter.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our communities. I look forward to seeing many of you at the NCAI Mid-Year Convention and the TCC Special Convention next month.

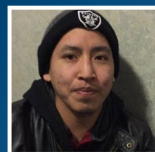
Mahsi' Choo,
Chief Brian Ridley



MISSING



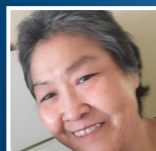
Lorraine
Ginnis



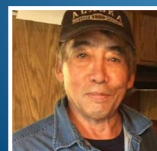
Willis
Derendoff



Doren
Sanford



Debbie
Nictune



Frank
Minano

SUBMIT TIPS ANONYMOUSLY:

Text AKTIPS followed by your tip to 84711 or visit

<https://dps.alaska.gov/ast/tips>



Call the Alaska State Troopers at 907-451-5100, Fairbanks Police Department at 907-450-6500 or TCC Public Safety at 907-452-8251 ext.3269.

Visit www.tananachiefs.org/missing for more information.

Welcome Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor/Case Manager

Tanana Chiefs Conference's Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation program recently welcomed a new staff member to their team, Sean Rice. Sean was born in Kotzebue on May 15, 1974 to Isabel M. Field, who later became Rice when she married his step-dad Jerry Rice. Sean was born Sean Patrick Field, his Inupiaq name is Ipiliq, his aanaa (grandmother) is Iren Schene, his taata (grandfather) is James M. Schene.



Sean is a retired laborer out of the Laborers Local 942. He owned his own janitorial company, New Life Hard Surface Cleaning and Restoration, which held the contract for cleaning both of the Fred Meyers here in Fairbanks, and cleaning and repairing the live-in homes for the Fairbanks Resource Agency. Sean also owned S&T, LLC, which was a construction

company where they paved residential driveways, repaired and put in sewers and drainage pipes, installed lawns and residential landscaping. He had a contract with Exclusive Paving, NANA Management and Relator companies in Fairbanks. Sean also helps with non-profits like the NAACP, Juneteenth, Dr. Martin Luther King Scholarship Committee, Festival Fairbanks, and the Midnight Sun Intertribal Powwow.

Sean is a welcome addition to the Workforce Development Team under Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation. He is located on 5th floor Chief Peter John Tribal Building in the Family Services & Supports Division, west wing. He can be reached by email at sean.rice@tananachiefs.org or by calling 907-452-8251 extension 3329.

Help is always here...

988

24 HOURS A DAY • 7 DAYS A WEEK



Free & confidential support for people in suicidal crisis

Your story isn't over...

If You Could Protect Your Children From Cancer *Would You?*

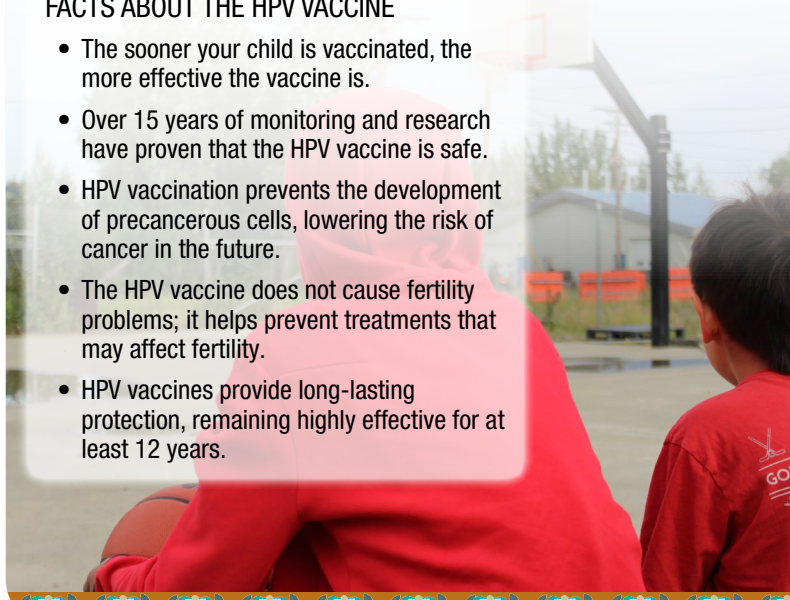
YOU CAN. The HPV Vaccine can prevent more than **6 types of cancer** and is up to 90% effective when given to children between the ages of 9-12.

PROTECT THEM.

Ask your provider about the HPV Vaccine today.

FACTS ABOUT THE HPV VACCINE

- The sooner your child is vaccinated, the more effective the vaccine is.
- Over 15 years of monitoring and research have proven that the HPV vaccine is safe.
- HPV vaccination prevents the development of precancerous cells, lowering the risk of cancer in the future.
- The HPV vaccine does not cause fertility problems; it helps prevent treatments that may affect fertility.
- HPV vaccines provide long-lasting protection, remaining highly effective for at least 12 years.



Indigenous Peoples Day October 14th, 2024

Join us in honoring the deep history, unwavering resilience, and vibrant cultures of our Indigenous communities. Indigenous Peoples' Day serves as a testament to the harsh realities of colonization while celebrating the richness of our heritage. It's a chance for our Tribes to voice their unique narratives. Let's stand in solidarity, demonstrating our respect for and commitment to preserving the wisdom, traditions, and heritage that have played an integral role in shaping who we are.



TCC Partner Boat Trip

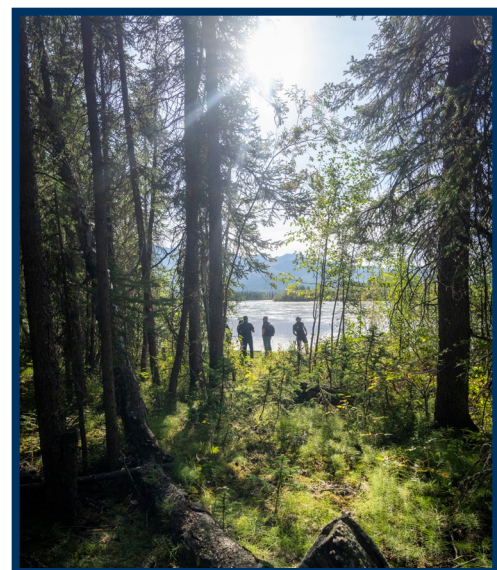
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and where improvements are needed. It gave us the chance to sit down with communities, meet the people who work in the clinics, and truly listen to their stories and needs. Issues like clean water, safe housing, Elder care, substance abuse, and access to subsistence foods are all solvable challenges—and we are committed to addressing them.”

TCC extends its heartfelt thanks to the local tribal leaders, community members, and all participants for their meaningful engagement. Special thanks go to the communities of Eagle, Tetlin, Northway, and Tanacross for their gracious hospitality and for welcoming our guests so warmly. Tsin’ee (thank you) to all the boat drivers, and support staff—your efforts were essential to the success of this trip, and we

couldn’t have done it without you.

TCC looks forward to continuing this annual tradition, inviting representatives to a different subregion each year. This continued effort helps to strengthen relationships between organizations and tribal leaders, while providing key decision-makers the opportunity to witness firsthand the issues our tribal communities face.





Updates from TCC Infrastructure

By Eddie Dellamary, Rural Energy Manager

The Energy program within the Infrastructure Department at Tanana Chiefs Conference has been actively working on securing funding for energy projects in the region. Specifically, they are currently focused on two large projects involving solar energy in Galena and in North Pole on



Powerplant Operator I McGrath, AK

Badger Road. TCC has secured over \$100 million for energy initiatives that will result in projects aiming to improve energy efficiency and sustainability in 12 communities within the TCC region, including Anvik, Shageluk, Holy Cross, Grayling, Kaltag, Nulato, Huslia, Minto, Tok, Venetie, Ruby, and Fort Yukon.

Recent funding awarded to the Energy program includes grants from the EPA Solar for All program, two Department of Energy Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED), and grants from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and Alaska Energy Authority. The program is actively seeking additional funding opportunities to further support Tribal communities in the region.

The focus of the Energy program is on alleviating high energy costs in rural Tribal communities by implementing energy-efficient technologies and

alternative energies. The program aims to ensure access to affordable energy in the TCC region, promote tribal energy sovereignty, and lead in the Alaskan energy landscape. Additionally, the program is evolving to meet the unique needs of Tribal communities and reduce reliance on diesel as the sole energy source.

The Energy program team has recently doubled in size, equipping them to efficiently manage existing projects and pursue new funding opportunities. The team is expanding to include two Infrastructure Program Managers who will work on solar and battery projects. Another position will become available for a Rural Energy Specialist.

The Energy program is empowering tribal communities by installing solar PV and battery storage systems to reduce dependence on diesel and promote clean energy production. By integrating these technologies into existing energy structures, the program is working

to provide local power production and increase sustainability in the region.

The Energy program collaborates with Tribal leaders, community members, and external partners by attending sub-regional meetings, Tribal Council meetings, and other community gatherings to discuss project details and gather input from community members. This collaboration helps ensure the long-lasting impact of energy projects supported by TCC.

The Energy program differentiates itself from other energy programs in the region by focusing on Tribal energy sovereignty and sustainability. While collaborating with other energy programs in Alaska, TCC addresses the unique challenges faced by communities in the region, and aims to closely involve community members in project installations to share knowledge and promote sustainability.



Alexander Sievers, TCC Infrastructure Project Manager, standing with solar panels on their way to Galena, AK

If your Tribal community is interested in discussing energy-related priorities and projects, please reach out

to the TCC Infrastructure Division to plan and collaborate on future energy initiatives. Call Eddie Dellamary, Rural Energy Manager, at 907-452-8251 ext 3279 or email:

Edward.Dellamary@tananachiefs.org.

SUBMIT YOUR PHOTOS FOR THE 2025 TCC CALENDAR

Deadline to Submit is October 18th, 2024

Snap, Submit, Caption, Done

Your photos could shine in our calendar!

Scan to submit your photos or visit
<https://www.tananachiefs.org/2025-tcc-calendar-submissions/>



Community Health Aide *Spotlight*

Jon Dyer - Manley Hot Springs

By Linden Stackiokas

There are many roads that can lead to becoming a health aide. For Jon Dyer, one of two health aides in Manley, the path included owning a distillery, starting a construction company, working as the manufacturing director for a medical equipment company, and feeding an interest in veterinary care by taking classes in animal husbandry. Then, about 11 years ago, Jon and his wife decided to visit Alaska. They bought a boat in Anchorage and started exploring the Yukon and Tanana Rivers. One of their stops was Manley.

"We loved it here and just kept coming back over and over," recalls Jon. Eleven years ago, they finally packed up their home in Michigan and moved to Manley. His wife eventually became the post mistress, while Jon took jobs working on the North Slope. Whenever he was home and the season was open, Jon would fish and hunt. Then, about four years ago, the family's circumstances changed drastically: Jon was laid off and COVID-19 hit.

It was not long after that he saw the advertisement looking for a health aide for Manley. It seemed like life finally had brought him to the place where he could throw himself into health care. "I had always been interested in medicine," he says, "but the timing was never right. It was not in the cards for me, not when I had a young family to support." But now he had the time, his wife was securely employed, and

his two children were adults and gone living their own lives. His application was supported by the community, one of the requirements for being accepted into the training program at Tanana Chiefs, and he was soon in Fairbanks starting the first of four sessions required to reach the top tier of the health aide ladder. He is now a Community Health Aide 4, having finished all the trainings, and earned the Alaska board certification.

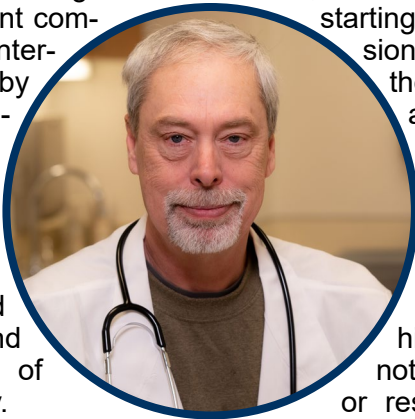
Jon was older than his classmates and did not have the distractions or responsibilities of young children while attending courses or field training. In addition, he had earned several college degrees in his younger years, so he had the skills needed to pass the classroom portions of the training without a lot of difficulty. Then, as now, what he loved most was the part of his training that sent him out to the field to work with patients. "It is very satisfying to end up with positive outcomes in difficult situations," he explains.

There were two ways Jon was different from most of the other students: he was older, with children in their late 20s by that time, and he was male. He says the only time those qualities seemed to make a difference was that patients, many of whom had only met female health aides, assumed he was a doctor. In fact, in some ways, Manley is the perfect place for an older health aide because the average age of the population is higher than in

many villages. Jon says that the number of young children can be counted on one hand and is not sufficient to support a school, so those youngsters are home schooled or sent to Minto for the school year.

In a community that at the last census count had 168 people, everybody wears multiple hats to keep the village going. Jon has volunteered for the fire department and been a member of the local governing body, the Manley Association. When he is not working, volunteering, fishing or hunting, he can be found piloting his own plane, or fixing things. He brought his machine shop tools from Michigan to Manley and now uses them to make parts for cars, boats, and 4-wheelers. In his younger years, he participated in the sport of competitive shooting, so he can also make parts for guns. Asked if he had any talents or hobbies that might surprise people, Jon said, "I sew. I recently made a beaver hat. It is a good hobby to have in the cold of winter."

Jon has no plans to leave his job as a health aide or his home in Manley. He feels fortunate to work for Tanana Chiefs, where the program works hard to support the health aides and where being one of two health aides in the town gives him flexibility in terms of arranging clinic hours as well as his on-call duties. It took a lot of detours, but he ended up with an exhilarating and active lifestyle in a town he never knew existed when he was a young man, with a rewarding career in a field he dreamed about but could not join until he was older.



Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program: 29 years helping people with disabilities enter the workforce & Subsistence!

By Amanda Race, MA, CRC, Coordinator/Certified Rehabilitation Counselor

The Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Program (TVR) will begin year 1 of a new 5-year grant starting October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2029 from Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) within the Department of Education. Read on for more information about this essential program

Who Is Eligible?

Anyone enrolled in an Alaska Native Village, Corporation or Native American Indian Tribe from the Lower 48 with a documented permanent physical or mental disability may be eligible. If your disability interferes with your ability to get or keep a job or to fully participate in a Subsistence lifestyle, you may be eligible for services. Tribal member's aged 18 to 64 years must live in the TCC service area or in their Village. There are no income restrictions and this is a voluntary program.

What Help Is Available?

Program counselors work one-on-one with each person to begin the process by identifying an employment goal to become self-sufficient, includ-

ing vocational counseling and guidance, referral to other providers, training, and coaching. ALL information is confidential and no one is given any information without having written & signed consent from the applicant.

Contact Us

Amanda Race, Program Coordinator/
Counselor

amanda.race@tananachiefs.org
907-452-8251 ext 3232

Sean Rice, TVR Counselor
sean.rice@tananachiefs.org
907-452-8251 ext 3329

Scan here to learn more
about this program



<https://www.tananachiefs.org/services/family-services/tribal-vocational-rehabilitation-program/>

Growing, Gathering, Hunting, Fishing: The Challenge is Eating It All

By Heidi Rader, Professor of Extension at
University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Curious about how your neighbors are living off the land? In this insightful article, Professor Heidi Rader interviews a couple dedicated to hunting, fishing, gathering, and growing much of their food in Alaska. Discover how they preserve their harvest, creatively use every part of their greens, and balance modern conveniences with traditional methods of food sourcing. Learn about the challenges and rewards of eating locally and sustainably year-round. Read the full story to gain tips on self-sufficiency and inspiration for living more from the land!

Scan here to read the
whole article



<https://www.tananachiefs.org/growing-gathering-hunting-fishing-the-challenge-is-eating-it-all/>

This October, Make Sure You Know the Signs & Symptoms of *Breast Cancer*

Knowing the signs and symptoms of breast cancer can save your life! If you discover an abnormality like those listed below, contact your healthcare provider right away.

- **A change in how your breast or nipple looks or feels.** Tenderness, a lump, swelling, or a change in skin texture can be a sign that something is wrong.
- **Discharge from the nipple.** Clear or bloody discharge or milky discharge in women who are not breast-feeding is a reason to seek help.

Although these signs and symptom are often not due to breast cancer, it is important to meet with your healthcare provider so that the problem can be diagnosed and treated right away.



Fish & Game Advisory Committees Are Becoming More Important

By Gale K. Vick

The Fish and Game Advisory Committees (ACs) to the Alaska Board of Fish and Board of Game ("Boards") have always played a critical role in fish and game management recommendations and proposals. ACs all over Alaska provide grassroots information, local and traditional knowledge and even technical knowledge. Like Regional Advisory Committees to the Federal Subsistence Board, ACs provide the first line of defense for many fish and game management determinations.

Because of the growing salmon crisis, local ACs are increasingly more important. With the availability of Zoom, it is much easier for members of the public and AC members to listen in on many different meetings, adding to the base of knowledge and enabling AC members to make more informed recommendations.

ACs are also a good forum for discussing fish and game issues that don't necessarily result in proposals to the Boards. Most AC meetings have at least one guest speaker from an agency or science community, and ACs routinely get staff reports from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as well as the Alaska Wildlife Troopers.

Meeting information for each can be accessed at this web site: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=process.acregion>

AC meetings are held from fall until Spring. Agendas and information for each AC can be found on the Alaska Department of Fish & Game website

dedicated to ACs. All AC meetings are posted at least two weeks ahead of their scheduled date, and all AC meetings are recorded for public listening.

The Fairbanks AC (FAC) meets the second Wednesday of the month between October and May. This is a hybrid meeting currently held at the JP Jones Center. The Fisheries Sub-committee meets virtually the Monday before, and the Game Sub-committee meets as scheduled during regular AC meetings. Members of the public are invited to attend and encouraged to contribute to these discussions. The FAC is actively pursuing many regulatory or management changes that will help build Yukon River Chinook stocks, support sufficient bycatch and intercept measures, encourage greater ecosystems and gravel-to-gravel management, reduce private non-profit hatchery egg production, and protect subsistence and personal use fishing on the Copper River. The FAC will be also be encouraging a joint AC meeting for the Interior for some time over the winter.

In October 2024, the big conversation for ACs will be around the Board of Fish proposals for the upcoming Board of Fish meetings, including the work session in October and the Prince William Sound meeting in Cordova in December. ACs can comment on any proposal.

Board of Fish Meeting Cycle

1. In the year preceding a board cycle, the board will announce a call for proposal that prescribes which

regions, species, and fisheries are set for regulatory review.

2. The proposal deadline is April 10 every year. If April 10 falls on a weekend, the proposal deadline will be the Monday following that weekend.
3. The meeting cycle repeats itself every three years. This schedule was adopted November 9, 1990 and revised based on workload and public participation.
4. Work Sessions for the Board of Fish to review Agenda Change Requests (ACRs) are conducted in October.
5. Regularly scheduled Board of Fish meetings occur between October and March, but special meetings can be called at any time.

The Board of Fish web link for meetings has detailed information. <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishesboard.meetinginfo>

Stay Engaged

Consider getting involved with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee (AC) this year to help shape important fish and game management decisions. Additionally, keep an eye on other ACs across the state, as well as the Western Interior and Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Committees (WIRAC and EIRAC), both of which are hosting meetings in the fall of 2024. Your participation can make a meaningful difference in preserving and protecting Alaska's wildlife resources for future generations.

Board of Fish - Long-Term Meeting Schedule	Board of Game 3-Year Meeting Cycle
Prince William Sound Area all Finfish & Shellfish (except Shrimp) Southeast/Yakutat Areas all Finfish & Shellfish Statewide (except SE/Yakutat/PWS) Shellfish* Meeting Cycle Years: 2024/2025 2027/2028 2030/2031 2033/2034	2023/2024 • Interior Region (GMUs 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26B, 26C) • Arctic/Western Region (GMUs 18, 22, 23, 26A)
Alaska Peninsula/Bering Sea-Aleutian Island/Chignik Areas All Finfish Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim Areas All Finfish Bristol Bay Area All Finfish Statewide Provisions for Finfish Meeting Cycle Years: 2025/2026 2028/2029 2031/2033 2034/2035	2024/2025 • Central/Southwest Region (GMUs 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, 17) • Statewide Regulations (Cycles A & B)
Cook Inlet Area (Lower and Upper) All Finfish Kodiak Area All Finfish Meeting Cycle Years: 2026/2027 2029/2030 2032/2033 2035/2036	2025/2026 • Southcentral Region (GMUs 6, 7, 8, 14C, 15) • Southeast Region (GMUs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Mental Illness Awareness Week: Removing Stigma, Promoting Health

October 6th-12th is Mental Illness Awareness Week. 1 in 5 adults experience mental health conditions each year. Mental health conditions are not caused by personal weakness, lack of character, or poor upbringing. They are medical conditions that can impact a person's thinking, feeling or mood and may affect their ability to relate to others and function on a daily basis. Genetics, the structure of the brain, environment and lifestyle can all impact mental health.

Know the Warning Signs

- **Depression:** Feeling sad, withdrawn, or unmotivated for more than two weeks.
- **Self-Harm:** Making plans to or trying to harm or kill oneself.
- **Risk-Taking:** Out of control, risky behaviors.
- **Fear:** Overwhelming fear for no reason, sometimes with a racing heart or fast breathing
- **Weight Change:** Significant weight loss or gain; taking harmful action to lose weight
- **Mood Swings:** Severe mood swings causing problems in relationships.
- **Substance Use:** Excessive use of drugs or alcohol.
- **Behavior:** Drastic changes in behavior, personality or sleeping habits.
- **Lack of Focus:** Extreme difficulty concentrating or staying still.
- **Intense Worries:** Intense worries or fears getting in the way of daily activities.

Find Support

If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these signs of a mental health condition, seek help right away. Reach out to your healthcare provider or any of the following resources:

TCC Behavioral Health

(907) 459-3800 (Option 2 for after hours)

Available for many treatment services and for crises

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

(Not an emergency service)

(907) 729-2492 or (833) 642-2492

Register to become a client at <https://www.anthc.com>

911 Mobile Crisis

Dial 911 and request MOBILE CRISIS

Access to local mental health professionals and supportive peers 24/7

988 Alaska Careline

Call or text 988 or chat online at 988lifeline.org

Support for anyone in crisis or who is helping someone in crisis

Crisis Text Line

Text "Native" to 74141

Access a trained crisis counselor 24/7

The Trevor Project

(866) 488-7386 or text "Start" to 678678

Specializing in the LGBTQIA+ community



April Johnson

ANMC-TCC Patient Advocate
907-687-9193

Lucy Frank

Lead ANMC-TCC Patient Advocate
907-687-9193

Patient Advocates Here for You!

Traveling to Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) & Need Assistance?

The ANMC-TCC Patient Advocates work closely with the medical teams at ANMC to ensure TCC patients receive clear communication about their care, excellent patient experiences, safe discharge plans, and access to support if concerns arise while at ANMC.

Please reach out to our ANMC-TCC Patient Advocates if needed.

November 5th is Election Day!

Are you ready for it?

The importance of Indigenous voices in the electoral process cannot be overstated. As we approach the upcoming elections, it is crucial that we mobilize efforts to get out the native vote. Our rural communities face unique challenges that often go unheard, from land rights and environmental protection to health care and education.

By exercising your right to vote, we can elect people that will advocate for policies that directly impact our lives and ensure that our concerns are prioritized.

This year, in addition to the Presidential election, there are many important statewide elections and ballot initiatives on Interior Alaskan ballots. We will fill a United States House of Representative seat, and at the statewide level, we will elect Senators, Representatives, and Judges.

Our elected officials are chosen to represent us, yet only 35% of our Interior residents take the time to vote. The act of voting is a powerful way to honor our heritage and shape the future for generations to come.

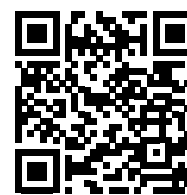
It is not just about casting a ballot; it is about standing up for the rights and issues that affect our communities most acutely. Every vote counts, and collectively, Indigenous voices can drive significant change in policy-making. Let us work together to ensure that every eligible Tribal citizen knows the importance of their vote and has the resources they need to participate fully in the democratic process.

This guide will help to inform you about the candidates and current ballot initiatives. It also arms you with all the information you need to register to vote, vote early, and know where your polling place is on Election Day. Make sure that you participate in the important process of using your vote as your voice!

Important Dates:

Voter Registration Deadline:
Sunday, October 6th, 2024

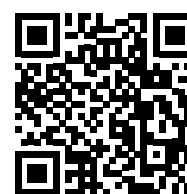
Scan to check and update your registration.



<https://voterregistration.alaska.gov/>

Early Voting Begins Monday,
October 21st, 2024

Scan to learn where to vote early.



<https://www.elections.alaska.gov/avo/>

Get Ready!

Know Where to Vote

Scan to find your polling place.



<https://www.elections.alaska.gov/election-polls/>

Know Your Candidates

Scan to learn more about your candidates.



<https://www.elections.alaska.gov/candidates/?election=24genr>

Learn More About Your Candidates

House Candidates	Legislative (House) District
Maxine Dibert	31
Bart Lebon	
Gary Damron	
Will Stapp	
Mike Prax	33
Joy Beth Cottle	34
Frank Tomaszewski	
Ashley Carrick	
Ruben McNeill, Jr.	35
James Fields	36
Pamela Goode	
Rebecca Schwanke	
Brandon Kowalski	
Senate Candidates	Senate District
Leslie Hajdukavich	P
Scott Kawasaki	
Mike Cronk	R
Savannah Fletcher	
Robert Williams	

Ranked Choice Voting

Ranked Choice Voting allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference. In all state and federal elections, voters rank candidates in order of preference, instead of only choosing one.

- Rank the candidates you like in order of preference.
- Your favorite is your first choice.
- Ranking other candidates doesn't affect your first choice.
- If a candidate receives a majority of first-choice votes (50%+1), they win. If no candidate receives a majority, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and voters that ranked that candidate first have their vote counted for their next choice.
- This process continues until one candidate receives a majority of voters' choices.



Frequently Asked Questions About Ranked Choice Voting	
Q:	If I rank four candidates, does that mean I voted four times?
A:	No. Only one vote counts per race. Your 2 nd (or later) choice only matters if your 1 st choice fails to get enough votes and is eliminated.
Q:	What happens if there is a tie?
A:	It's very unlikely that an RCV election will end in a tie. However, if there's a tie at any step of the process, it will be decided the same as it has been in the past. Alaska law says the tie is resolved "by lot", which means the division's director will flip a coin or draw straws.
Q:	What offices are elected using Ranked Choice Voting?
A:	President/Vice President, U.S. Senators, U.S. Representative, Governor/Lieutenant Governor, and all state representatives and state senators. The open, pick 1 primary will be used for U.S. Senators, U.S. Representative, Governor/Lieutenant Governor, and all state representatives and state senators, but not for President/Vice President.

Scan to learn more about ranked choice voting



<https://www.elections.alaska.gov/election-information/#GENR>

2024 Ballot Measures

Ballot measure votes directly impact your daily life, and the daily lives of the people you care about. This year, there are two measures on the ballot.

1

Ballot Measure 1 is an initiative to increase Alaska's minimum wage, provide workers with paid sick leave, and protect workers from practices that violate their constitutional rights.

2

Ballot Measure 2 is an act to get rid of the Open Primary System and Ranked-Choice General Election.

Scan to learn more about each ballot measure or visit <https://www.elections.alaska.gov/petitions-and-ballot-measures/#ballotmeasures>



INTERIOR NATIVE
VOTE

Follow Interior Native Vote for Election Information, Updates & Reminders



<https://www.facebook.com/GOTNVinterior>

Heal, Hold & Center: Raising Awareness About Domestic Violence

According to the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, 2 in 5 women and 1 in 4 men in the United States have experienced sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

These numbers are even higher for Alaska Native women, among whom 57% will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. This month, the Domestic Violence Awareness Project invites us to commit to embrace the many cultural ways we can **heal** from violence and oppression, **hold** space for survivors, and **center** those most marginalized in all of our efforts to end domestic violence.



Emotional Abuse: Name-calling and put-downs; denying/shifting blame; treating a partner as an inferior; threatening to harm self/others; stalking; using threatening looks, actions or gestures; using technology to track, monitor or frighten their partner.

Economic Abuse: Stealing or destroying belongings/money; preventing a partner from getting or keeping a job; not letting a partner know about or have access to family income; damaging or ruining a partner's credit.

Joining the Effort

We all have a role in ending domestic violence. Here are some things you can do to help:

Help a loved one who is being abused. When a victim shares that they are being abused, believe them. Let them know that the abuse is not their fault. Help them find resources and options, and empower them to make choices for their safety. It can take a long time to end an abusive relationship; provide nonjudgmental support no matter how many times they come to you with their concerns.

Speak up about abuse. Let the person using violence or intimidation know their behavior is wrong and encourage them to seek help. If you see abuse, report it so that all parties can receive the help they need. Doing nothing can make the abuse worse and even deadly.

Educate yourself and others. Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) has

resources available to help you learn more about domestic violence and the steps you can take with your community to prevent it. Email TribalProtectiveServices@tananachiefs.org for more information.

Set an example. Make a commitment to work for equality and end violence in all of its forms. Model non-violent and respectful behavior through your everyday actions.

Help is Here

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic violence, seek help! If someone is in immediate danger, dial 911 and/or the Alaska State Troopers non-emergent line at 907-451-5100. The following resources are also available to you to help restore safety.

TCC Tribal Protective Services
907-452-8251 ext. 2897 or 3420
TribalProtectiveServices@tananachiefs.org

Alaska Center for Nonviolent Living
1-800-478-7273
(907) 452-2293
<https://iacnvl.org/>

Fairbanks Native Association Community Services
(907) 452-5225
<https://www.fairbanksnative.org/community-services/>

Healing Native Hearts Coalition
(907) 374-1030
<https://hnhcoalition.org/>

Strong Hearts Native Helpline
1-844-NATIVE (762-8483)
www.strongheartshelpline.org

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence, also known as intimate partner violence, is a pattern of abusive behaviors characterized by one partner's need to control the other through coercion (using force or threats to make their partner do something they do not want to do), intimidation (frightening or scaring their partner), and emotional manipulation (misusing their partner's feelings or emotions to change how they perceive reality). Domestic violence may include:

Physical Abuse: Hitting, slapping, punching, shoving, kicking, burning, strangulation/choking, using weapons or other objects to cause injury.

Sexual Abuse: Forcing a partner to engage in unwanted sexual acts; refusing to practice safe sex; treating a partner like a sex object.

TCC Shuttle Service

TCC's complementary Patient Shuttle Service now has extended hours to meet the needs of patients traveling to Fairbanks for medical appointments.

Weekday Schedule

Monday - Friday • 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Call 907-347-0765 for appointments outside the route schedule

Weekend Schedule

Saturday - Sunday • 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Call 907-687-8338

Airport Transportation

Monday-Friday • 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Saturday • 6:30 AM - 8:00 PM | Sunday • 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM

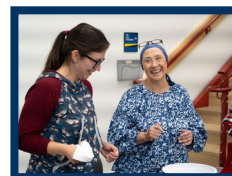
SCAN TO VIEW MORE
SHUTTLE INFO!



2024 Food Security Summit

The 2024 Food Security Summit provided opportunities for Tribal members to learn strategies for Tribal food sovereignty, emphasizing the importance of self-sufficiency and sustainable food systems for Alaska Native communities. Participants learned valuable techniques for managing their gardens while traveling for hunting, fishing, and gathering, followed by a food preservation class led by Heidi Rader from UAF Cooperative Extension. In the afternoon, breakout sessions focused on practical skills like making low-sugar jam, hydroponic winter gardening, and hunter safety.

Day two included a tour of the Botanical Gardens, highlighting research aimed at increasing food security through local vegetable and berry cultivation. Afternoon sessions offered hands-on instruction in vegetable preservation, whitefish processing, and trail signs. The workshop underscored the role of food sovereignty in building resilient communities across Alaska.



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Tribal Resource Stewardship Corner

Middle Yukon River Sonar Feasibility Update



By Brian Lepping, Fishery Biologist

The Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) Tribal Resource Stewardship Department (TRS) is currently conducting a feasibility study on the Middle Yukon River that will test the applicability of using sonar to count salmon as they migrate through to their spawning grounds. Currently, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) operates two similar sonar counting stations, one in the

Lower Yukon at Pilot Station and one in the Upper Yukon located near Eagle. These counting stations are used to provide fisheries managers with the needed in-season information in order to direct management actions towards the fishery. TCC and its member Tribes are currently building Tribal scientific capacity by conducting the required feasibility efforts that will lead to the eventual operation of a sonar assessment project located in the Middle Yukon River. The project may eventually provide fisheries managers with information that can be used for improved in-season fisheries management actions.

Field efforts for the feasibility study started in 2023 when TRS contracted Yukon River Transport LLC to help investigate eight different locations between Galena and Rampart. Out of those eight locations, three were identified as areas of interest. During the 2024 field season two of those sites

were investigated further for sonar feasibility.

Beginning in early July of this year, TCC along with Charlie Wright (Yukon River Transport LLC) investigated two potential locations near the village of Tanana on the Yukon River. One location is above the confluence of the Tanana River near Sixteen Mile Island and the other is below the Tanana River confluence near the mouth of the Tozitna River. The crews spent seven days at each site collecting data to ensure main objectives were met.

The main objectives of the 2024 field season were to:

- Gather in depth bottom profiles near the areas of interest.
- Find the travel corridors for migrating fish.
- Test the feasibility of drift gill netting near the sonar sites.
- Determine the fish community that the project would likely encounter during sonar operations.
- Determine which sonar equipment would be necessary for next year.

To meet objectives lined out in the study plan, sonars were installed on both the north and south banks of the Yukon River at each prospective site. For this year, the scope of the field study was not to get an absolute abundance of salmon as they migrated through. Instead biologists wanted to know which bank the salmon preferred and how far offshore they traveled. Using specialized software (see Figure 2) biologists are able to count migrating fish as they moved through the sonar beam. The sonar indicated many fish and how far offshore they traveled from the sonar. While this data is still being processed and analyzed, this information will help determine the migratory corridors of these salmon and which types of sonar will be necessary for next year's



Charlie Wright (Yukon River Transport LLC) with biologist Brian McKenna about ready to release a female Chinook salmon. Photo credit Ben Farnham



Figure 1. Map of the locations of the Sixteen Mile Island site located 13 miles upriver from Tanana and the Tozitna River site located 7 miles downriver of Tanana.

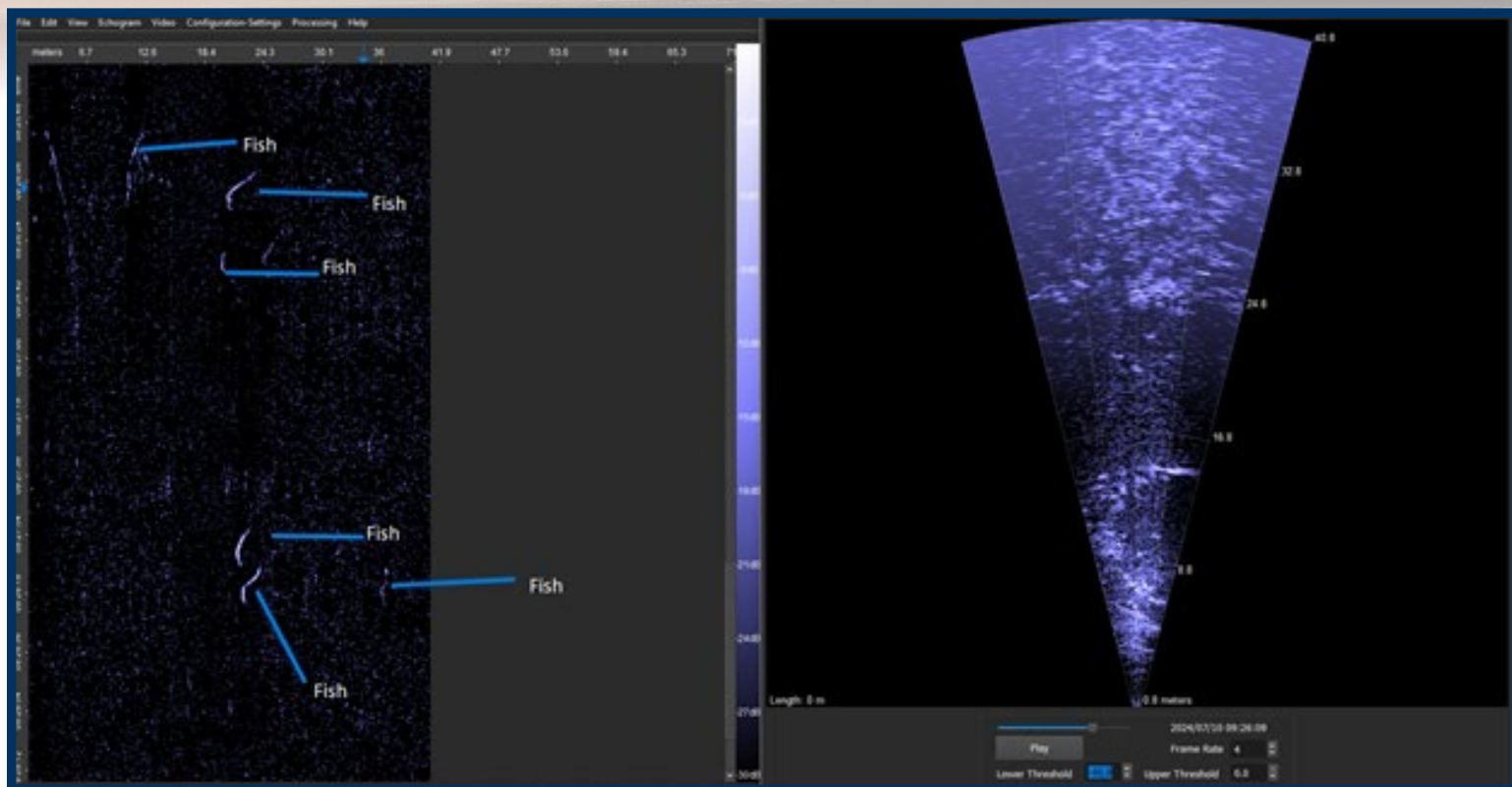


Figure 2. View of the sonar processing software Echotastic, developed by Carl Pfisterer, ADF&G

feasibility efforts.

Testing the feasibility of drift gillnetting at each location was another crucial component in the sonar feasibility process. Since the sonar is not able to distinguish between fish species, using drift gillnets with various mesh sizes allows biologists to collect data on the composition of the fish community as well as the proportion of each fish species passing through the sonar beam. Drift gillnetting is not a common traditional practice where the sonar locations are being proposed. Being able to drift gillnet is essential to understanding which fish species are being detected by the sonar. Overall a total of 16 Chinook salmon, 14 chum salmon, and 9 round whitefish were caught during the testing fishing process. Due to a carefully planned protocol and respectful handling by the crew, every fish was released quickly and unharmed.

We also included an additional objective that was not part of our original study plan. Genetic samples were collected from Chinook salmon captured during test fishing at the site near the Tozitna River. The Tozitna River site is in close proximity to the confluence of the Yukon and Tanana Rivers. There is speculation and some evidence both within Indigenous and western science that suggests the

Chinook salmon population is “separated” at this point in the river. This could mean that the vast majority of Chinook salmon encountered on the north bank would be of Upper Yukon River origin and the Chinook salmon encountered on the south bank would be of Tanana River origin. The goal was to gain some information on the strength of bank orientation at this location in the river. The sample size was small, but this information should give us some insight on whether bank orientation could be used as a tool for independent stock assessments between Tanana River and Upper Yukon River stocks. The results of the genetic samples could have implications for site selection and will determine whether a more in-depth study is warranted.

Our deployment near Sixteen Mile Island overlapped with Tanana’s Spirit Camp. Spirit Camp staff were kind enough to let TCC staff stay at their camp and included our project into their camp curriculum. As such, Spirit Camp youth participants were able to learn about using sonar to monitor salmon migrations, and they also assisted TCC staff with test fishing operations.

This year’s field season came with many successes and several challenges; however the fisheries crew

was able to collect valuable data at both sites. Once the data has been analyzed an informed decision will be made on which of the two sites should be investigated further in 2025.



Claire Davis test fishing a drift gill net in the Yukon River near Sixteen Mile Island above Tanana. Photo Credit Brian McKenna.



Spirit Camp youth participants assisting Charlie Wright and Brian Lepping with test fishing. Photo credit Brian McKenna.



Tanana
Chiefs
Conference

The Council Newsletter

(907) 452-8251 ext. 3424
communications_dept@tananachiefs.org
www.tananachiefs.org

Communications Division
122 First Avenue, Suite 600
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701



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New Vacancies

Fairbanks	Fund Accountant I
Fairbanks	Self-Governance Operations Coordinator
Fairbanks	Executive Administration Receptionist
Fairbanks	Social Services Coordinator
Fairbanks	Subregional Prevention Coordinator Trainee
Fairbanks	Revenue Operations Manager
Fairbanks	Billing & Denials Manager
Fairbanks	Alternate Resource Coordinator
Fairbanks	Behavioral Health Consultant I
Fairbanks	Lead Certified Medical Assistant
Fairbanks	Release of Information (ROI) Specialist I
Fairbanks	Billing Technician II
Fairbanks	Health Information Management (HIM) Technician I
Fairbanks	Prevention Specialist
Fairbanks	Probate Specialist Tech II.4a.NEX
Fairbanks	TANF Case Manager
Fairbanks	Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
Fairbanks	Enrollment Representative
Fort Yukon	Subregional Prevention Coordinator Trainee
Galena	Subregional Prevention Coordinator Trainee
Region-Wide	Village Bookkeeper I
Region-Wide	Camp Counselor I
Ruby	Elder Nutrition Cook
Tok	Subregional Prevention Coordinator Trainee
Tok	Expediter - UTHC



Apply Online or Learn About Our Benefits!

Visit our website at www.tananachiefs.org/careers to see a full list of open positions and learn more about the benefits available through Tanana Chiefs Conference.

JOBS LISTED WERE OPEN AS OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

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join us Wednesdays via Zoom
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

**OCT
8-10**

Traditional Healing Gathering
Fairbanks, AK • More Information to Come

**OCT
14**

TCC Offices Closed
Indigenous Peoples Day

**OCT
16**

TCC Executive Board Meeting
Fairbanks, AK • More Information to Come

**OCT
16**

7th Annual Tribal Unity Gathering
Captain Cook Hotel • Anchorage, AK
To register, email sonja.kokrine@tananachiefs.org or
complete this form: <https://tinyurl.com/TribalUnity2024>

**OCT
23**

2024 TCC Job Fair
Gold Room, Westmark • Fairbanks, AK
<https://tinyurl.com/2024TCCJobs>

**NOV
11**

TCC Offices Closed
Veterans Day